

Applicant : Paul Patrick Cleary et al.
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Attorney's Docket No.: 09531-166002/96013

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claim 68. The claims and their status are shown below.

Claims 1-59 (Cancelled)

60. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 1, previously presented) An isolated and purified enzymatically inactive peptide of Streptococcal C5a peptidase (SCP), wherein the peptide comprises the catalytic domain of the SCP, which elicits antibodies that neutralize the peptidase activity of wild-type SCP.

61. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 2, previously presented) The peptide of claim 60 wherein the peptide has reduced binding activity as compared to the wild-type SCP.

62. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 3, previously presented) The peptide of claim 60, wherein the SCP is expressed from an isolated DNA sequence.

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 4, previously presented) The peptide of claim 60, wherein the SCP catalytic domain comprises a specificity crevice.

65. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 5, previously presented) The peptide of claim 64 wherein the SCP specificity crevice comprises contiguous amino acid residues from residue 260 to residue 417, wherein the position of the amino acid residues in the peptide corresponds to the position of amino acids in wild-type SCP.

66. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 6, previously presented) The peptide of claim 60, wherein the SCP comprises one or more of amino acid residues 260, 261, 262, 415, 416 or 417, wherein the position of the amino acid residues in the peptide corresponds to the position of amino acids in wild-type SCP.

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67. (Cancelled)

68. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 7, currently amended) The peptide of claim 60, wherein the SCP catalytic domain comprises contiguous amino acid residues from residue 130 to residue 512, wherein the position of the amino acid residues in numbering of the peptide corresponds to the position of amino acids in wild-type SCP ~~is consistent with numbering of a full length SCP that includes a signal sequence.~~

69. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 8, previously presented) The peptide of claim 60 wherein the SCP catalytic domain comprises one or more of amino acid residues 130, 193, 295 or 512, wherein the position of the amino acid residues in the peptide corresponds to the position of amino acids in wild-type SCP.

70. (Cancelled)

71. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 9, previously presented) The peptide of claim 60 wherein the peptide has a substitution at one or more of amino acid residues 260, 261, 262, 415, 416, 417, 130, 193, 295 or 512, wherein the position of the amino acid residues in the peptide corresponds to the position of amino acids in wild-type SCP.

72. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 10, original) The peptide of claim 71 wherein the substitution is a conserved substitution.

73. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 11, previously presented) The peptide of claim 71, wherein the peptide is SCPA49D130A, SCPA49H193A, SCPA49N295A, SCPA49S512A, SCPA1D130A, SCPA1H193A, SCPA1N295A, SCPA1S512A, SCPBD130A, SCPBH193A, SCPBN295A, SCPBS512A or ΔSCPA49.

74. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 12, previously presented) The peptide of claim 73, wherein the peptide is SCPA1S512A.

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75. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 13, previously presented) The peptide of claim 60 wherein the peptide varies from wild-type SCP in that it does not contain a signal sequence.

76. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 14, previously presented) The peptide of claim 60 wherein the peptide varies from wild-type SCP in that it does not contain a cell wall insert.

77. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 15, previously presented) The peptide of claim 60 wherein the SCP is from a group A Streptococcus, group B Streptococcus, group C Streptococcus or group G Streptococcus.

78. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 16, previously presented) The peptide according to claim 77, wherein the SCP is from Group A Streptococcus.

Claims 79-98 (Cancelled)

99. (Renumbered by examiner as claim 17, previously presented) The peptide of claim 69, wherein the peptide has a substitution at one or more of amino acid residues 130, 193, 295 or 512 with an alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, tryptophan or methionine residue.

100. (Cancelled)